

PATENT

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116 - EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE - EXAMINING GROUP 1645

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK

Appl. No.: 09/856,969 Confirmation No.: 5142
Applicant(s): Chantal Cayeula et al.
Filed: August 1, 2001
Art Unit: 1645
Examiner: Jana Hines
Title: SELECTION AND USES OF LACTIC ACID BACTERIA STRAINS
MODULATING NON-SPECIFIC IMMUNITY

Docket No.: 033339/234602
Customer No.: 00826

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated December 11, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this paper.

Entered for RCE request 12/26/04 an

Appln No. 09/856,969

Filed: August 1, 2001

Page 2

Amendments To The Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for regulating the inflammatory response of enterocytes, said method comprising contacting said enterocytes with a composition containing as an active agent a lactic acid bacteria strain capable of decreasing the production of nitric oxide (NO) by cultures of enterocytes preactivated with a mixture of pro-inflammatory cytokines comprising IL-1- β , TNF- α , and IFN- γ and bacterial lipopolysaccharides (LPS).
2. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein said strain is also capable of increasing the production of NO by cultures of enterocytes preactivated with pro-inflammatory cytokines.
3. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein said bacterial strain is a *Lactobacillus casei* (*L. casei*) strain.
4. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein said bacterial strain is the *L. casei* strain CNCM I-1518.
5. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein said composition is in the form of a food supplement.
6. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein said composition is in the form of a fermented dairy product.
7. (Withdrawn) Process for screening novel lactic acid bacterial strains which have properties which modulate non-specific immunity, which comprises selecting lactic acid bacteria strains capable of inhibiting the production of NO by cultures of enterocytes preactivated with pro-inflammatory cytokines and bacteria LPS.

Appln No. 09/856,969

Filed: August 1, 2001

Page 3

8. (Withdrawn) Process according to Claim 7, which also comprises a step of selecting strains capable of increasing the production of NO by cultures of enterocytes preactivated with pro-inflammatory cytokines.

9. (Withdrawn) Process according to Claim 7, wherein said strains are screened using cultures of lactic acid bacteria chosen from the group consisting of lactobacilli, lactococci, streptococci and bifidobacteria.

10. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the lactic acid bacteria is in the form of whole bacteria which may or may not be living.

11. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the lactic acid bacteria is in the form of a bacterial lysate.

12. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the lactic acid bacteria is in the form of bacterial fractions.

13 - 20 (Cancelled)